

HONORING GERALDINE JAMES
PETTIE

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2018

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember Geraldine James Pettie, a longtime Washingtonian, a dedicated public servant, a devoted spouse, a loving mother, an attentive grandmother and great grandmother, a cherished sister, an adored friend and neighbor. Mrs. Pettie passed away quietly on July 18, 2018, at her home in Washington, DC at the age of 91.

I never had the honor of meeting Mrs. Pettie, but my chief of staff, Victor Castillo, has shared many wonderful stories and anecdotes with me about his wonderful, welcoming neighbor. In tribute to Mrs. Pettie's life efforts and to share with my colleagues and the nation the story of Geraldine Pettie, I would like to include in the RECORD the obituary memorializing her which was included in program for her funeral services at Mount Zion United Methodist Church today.

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF GERALDINE
JAMES PETTIE

MAY 5, 1927–JULY 18, 2018

Geraldine Audrey James Pettie was born May 5, 1927, in Sandy Level, Virginia. She was the first child of the late Morris E. and Veatrice Jackson James. Geraldine was united in marriage to the late Lynwood E. Pettie on August 18, 1950, and to that union two children were born.

Gerry, as she was affectionately known, attended the public schools of Pittsylvania County, Virginia, and received her Bachelor's degree from Virginia State College in 1946. She taught in the Pittsylvania County school system until moving to Washington, DC, in 1951. It was then Gerry began her career with the Department of Defense, retiring from the National Security Agency in 1979 after 27 years of service. Although Gerry could not share details about her responsibilities at NSA, the pride she felt for the work she did was obvious.

Upon moving to Washington, DC, Gerry joined Mount Zion United Methodist Church and was an active member until the untimely death of her husband in 1989. She also maintained her affiliation with the Ridge-way United Methodist Church back home.

After retiring, she was able to dedicate more time to her greatest joys—her grandchildren, the Kappa Alpha Psi Silhouettes, and antiquing. Gerry and Lynwood loved finding and restoring antiques. They traveled extensively in pursuit of their hobby and together opened a small antique store—LYN & GERRY—in Maryland. Some of their antiquing trips were combined with Kappa and Silhouette activities, often arriving at conference hotels with a car packed full of their “treasures”.

Gerry devoted herself to her family. Her daughters and grandchildren were the pride of her life. Gerry was always armed with a collection of her kids' business cards and graduation photos which she proudly shared. In her final years, her greatest happiness came from the years spent living with her devoted sister, Lucille, in Gretna, Virginia. Lucille's in-laws embraced Gerry and treated her as one of their own. They became known as the “Golden Girls” and everyone around town enjoyed witnessing their obvious love for each other.

Gerry departed this life peacefully on Wednesday, July 18, 2018. She leaves to cher-

ish her memory, her devoted daughters, Deborah Pritchett and Jan Whitley; four grandchildren, Kimberly Pritchett, Derek Whitley, Dara Whitley Champ, and Dana Whitley; one great-grandchild, Anthony Champ, Jr.; one sister, Lucille J. Younger; one brother, Morris E. James (Rosa) and one son-in-law, Michael Pritchett; one grandson-in-law, Anthony Champ; two nephews, Ronald Turner (Rita) and Lindell Younger; one niece, Lisa Turner; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Mrs. Pettie was laid to rest at Fort Lincoln Cemetery in Brentwood, Maryland alongside her beloved spouse Lynwood.

RECOGNIZING EARLE FRANCIS
JONES ON THE RECEIPT OF THE
REGINALD “REG” GILLIAM
AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVE-
MENT

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2018

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my dear friend, Earle Francis Jones who today is being honored by the Washington Government Relations Group with the Reginald “Reg” Gilliam Award for Lifetime Achievement for his decades of government relations work in Washington. Mr. Jones is most deserving of this great honor and I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our congratulations.

Mr. Jones was born in Washington, D.C. to Earle Sr. and the former Sylvia Carroll and raised here in our Nation's Capital. He is a product of the District of Columbia Public School system where he attended historic Coolidge High School and excelled in sports, music, and community service. Mr. Jones was highly academic and upon graduating from High School, went on to attend the internationally renowned American University. He later attended the University of California at Berkeley where he received his Juris Doctor Degree from the Boalt Hall School of Law.

Following law school, Mr. Jones began practicing at the firm of Holland and Hart in Denver, Colorado. He eventually left the firm to serve the Regional Transportation District as one of their legal representatives. He then entered into private practice.

Mr. Jones then served for two years on the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board as the Ethics Counselor for Colorado lawyers. He was recommended by a justice of the Colorado Supreme Court to serve in this important position. Earle served in that capacity for two years and was also an adjunct Law Professor at the University of Denver.

Returning to the National Capital Region, Mr. Jones joined Tele-Communications, Inc. (TCI) in 1989 where he served as Division Director for Government Affairs and then its Federal Communications Commission Washington Counsel. He then served as Director of Government Affairs for TCI's five-state Mid-Atlantic region.

For three years, Mr. Jones led Washington, DC's District Cablevision as its General Manager and oversaw Comcast's acquisition of District Cablevision from AT&T in 2001.

Mr. Jones joined Comcast as Vice President of Government Affairs for its Eastern Division,

and in January 2009, he joined Comcast Corporation's Washington Federal Government Affairs office where he continues to serve with distinction as their senior public policy representative on Capitol Hill.

Over decades of work, Mr. Jones has developed strong relationships with members of Congress and their staff. This is particularly true among members of the Congressional Black Caucus who regularly seek his advice and counsel.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the high honor of knowing and working with Mr. Jones for more than a decade. As a member of Congress, I have many relationships on Capitol Hill, but none exceed the bond of friendship that I enjoy with Mr. Jones; he is one of the kindest individuals I've ever come to know. I've always been impressed by his honesty, integrity, and commitment to others.

Mr. Jones has generously given his time to serve on the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Corporate Advisory Council where he advised the CBCF's Board of Directors on policy, special initiatives, and leadership development. There is no doubt that his service on the Council furthered the CBCF's mission to advance the global black community by developing leaders, informing policy, and educating the public. His professional drive is exceeded only by his love for family.

Mr. Jones is married to the former Linda Eatmon whose family is from my congressional district in Winton, North Carolina. They were married in 1998 and together have one son Steve, daughter-in-law Heather, and two grandchildren, Ryan and Rachael.

Mr. Jones' steadfast leadership and dogged commitment to honesty and integrity enabled him to earn the trust and respect of his friends, colleagues, congressional staffers, and countless members of Congress. Like so many others, I am honored to know Earle Jones and call him my friend.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the people of the First Congressional District of North Carolina, I congratulate Earle Francis Jones upon his selection to receive the Reginald “Reg” Gilliam Award for Lifetime Achievement. It could not go to a more deserving individual.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF COLONEL
DAVID ELLIS

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2018

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn remembrance of the life of Colonel David Alton Ellis, a retired Air Force veteran, husband, father, and grandfather from Fredericksburg, Virginia. Mr. Alton admirably served in the U.S. Air Force and will be remembered for his selfless devotion to his community.

Colonel Ellis was born on October 30, 1937, in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He is an alumnus of the University of Tennessee, where he earned a B.S. in Liberal Arts. He received his master's degree in International Affairs from Catholic University. Col. Ellis spent over 31 years in the Air Force where he served in Air Defense Surveillance. After his time in the Air